## **Abstract**

In the context of computer-based auctions, innovations in proxy bids and auction formats are
disclosed. In accordance with the illustrative embodiment, a bidder can program a data processing
system to enter one or more bids by proxy. The capabilities offered by the data processing system
include: determining one or more bid variables based, at least in part, on the identity of one or more
bidders in an auction, or determining one or more bid variables based, at least in part, on the absence
of one or more bidders from an auction, or determining one or more bid variables based, at least in
part, on the bid variables in one or more other bids, or determining one or more bid variables based, at
least in part, on the results of another auction, or determining one or more bid variables based, at least
in part, on default values, or waiting a specific or random amount of time before entering a bid in
behalf of a bidder, or any combination of these.